

SPORTS



This year's European champions in figure skating Yelena Valova and Oleg Vanyayev.

European figure skating

Katarina Witt, of the GDR, has won gold in the women's singles. Soviet girl Kira Ivanova is second and Claudia Leistner of the FRG, third.

Moscowite Anna Kondusheva came in fifth and Natalya Lebedeva of Sverdlovsk, sixth.

NEHRU CUP GOES TO THE USSR

After a 2-1 win over Yugoslavia, the Soviet youth soccer team captured the 4th International Jawaharlal Nehru Cup which was played out at the town of Cochin, India.

PRIZE FOR SOVIET FEDERATION

At a meeting of its Executive Bureau in Paris, the World Underwater Federation has granted the USSR Federation for Underwater Sport a prize "For Sports Successes and Contribution to the Development of Underwater Sport Worldwide". This recently inaugurated prize will be presented every year.

Last year alone Soviet scuba divers won 114 gold, 63 silver and 25 bronze international medals. In speed diving Svetlana Kirova of Leningrad set five

world records, and Oleg Streikow of Kiev, three. At last year's youth European championship Sergei Smirnov of Moscow won seven golds, Svetlana Yablochkina also of Moscow captured six golds, and Svetlana Ibragimova from Sverdlovsk, five.

The shoot-out between Moscow clubs CAC and Dynamo in the current national ice-hockey championship was in fans' spotlight with both teams producing a top-notch performance. The top rivals met for the third time in the championship while Dynamo had won the two previous meets. The third game ended in a 2-1 draw with Khimik of CAC scoring in the third minute and Dynamo's Zubrilchev netting the equalizer in the 44th minute.

● A tense moment in the game.

Photo by Andrei Knyazev

VYING FOR CHESS CROWNS

After 47 indecisive games played in the Hall of Columns in the House of Trade Unions, Anatoly Karpov and Gari Kasparov will resume their series, this time at the conference hall in the Sport Hotel. The first to win six games will emerge victorious, the score to date is 5-2 in Karpov's favor.

While the men have not yet decided the fate of the world title, women have entered into another cycle of the world championship. Unlike previous years, the new cycle will last

Champion's prediction comes true

The 53th Monte Carlo Rally — the first stage of the championship for drivers and car manufacturers — has ended exactly as Stig Blomqvist of Sweden, the current world champion, predicted at the last year's final stage in Britain. Asked to comment about Ari Vatanen, who was competing on a Peugeot-205 Turbo 16, he said: "At least a good rival and a good car have emerged. He is nice to compete with."

The first starts this year proved him right. Though Walter Rohrl virtually did head the race in his Audi Sport-Quattro right to the finish, he was closely followed by Vatanen who was only 4 min 41 sec behind. The 27th speed stretch (altogether there were 33) was decisive for them. Rohrl, who won four of the previous five Monte Carlo rallies, failed to choose the right tyre: he preferred those for fast driving, despite the fact that the stretch was covered with snow. Vatanen didn't miss the opportunity and took first place, racing 5 min 17 sec ahead of his main rival.

The Peugeot team were winners-lake-ail. Timo Salonen was third and Bruno Saby — fifth. Blomqvist on Audi Sport-Quattro came fourth.

two years instead of three. The first stage of the zonal elimination games (the USSR constitutes an individual zone of FIDE, the World Chess Federation) took place in Chernigov. The first four places and the right to play in the interzonals were won by Tamara Litninskaya, Yelena Akhmylovskaya, Svetla-



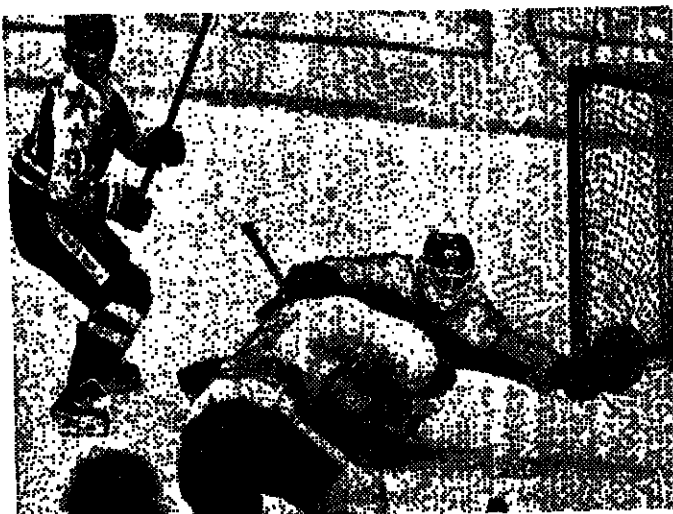
For the second year in succession, Erika Hess, of Switzerland, has won the world gold, this time at Bormio, Italy.

Photo Reuter-TASS

HER EYES SET ON A NEW VICTORY

Carla Kania-Enka, thrice Olympic champion of the GDR, has given birth to a baby boy, Sascha. Soon after becoming a mother she again started dreaming of going back to the ice. In an interview granted "Junge Welt" she said that she would start her training sessions as soon as doctors gave her go-ahead, and that she had no doubts being among the world skating elite.

Nothing had happened to skating, she said, except that the Dutch had skated their way to the fore. She said she was glad that the European title went to her compatriot, Andrea Schöna.



na Matveyeva and Nino Guriel. They will be joined at the two interzonal championships by other Soviet Grandmasters: Nona Gaprindashvili, Nana Alexandriya and Nana Ionidze who took part in the quarter and semifinals of the previous championship. The last elimination stage — two rounds involving all the competitors (the replaces matches between them can be joined by two more Soviet chess grands — Lyda Se-myonova and Irina Levina. They and three winners in each of the interzonals (a total of eight in all) will fight for the right to challenge the reigning chess queen, Maya Chiburdanidze of the USSR, in 1986.

Viktor BABIK chess observer

MACEDO REPLACES SANTANA

Following protracted negotiations the Brazil Football Confederation has appointed Macedo, 51, chief coach of its national team. Despite controversy reports, Tole Santana had been planned for this post, through his contract, to leave Saudi Arabia where he coaches the Al-Nassr team before the term expires. Macedo, who coaches America club in Rio de Janeiro, declared that the lineup "is physically fit and a better technique".

In June the Brazilians will meet their rivals in the world championship elimination games.

FOOTBALL NEWS

● The Greek club Larissa are to play Moscow Dynamo in the quarterfinals of the European Cup Winners' Cup on May 6 and 20. They drew 2-2 in a recent match played against a team as part of the national tournament. Larissa, with 21 points after 17 games, the championship is in PAOK with 27 points.

● Dnieper's rivals in quarterfinals, the Bordeaux, are still occupying the top spot on the tournament table in the French championship. They have 37 points after 23 matches. They are followed by Nantes with 34 points, the Auxerre club with 33 points. In the latest round the Bordeaux team won their home pitch down by 1-0 after an opening goal by Jean Tigana. In the middle of the half, Jean Tigana netted another goal while a few minutes before the end of the match, the team consolidated by Didier Drogba.



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MAN INFORMATION

Andreas Papandreou in the USSR

The Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou of the Hellenic Republic has arrived in Moscow at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

Left to right: Andreas Papandreou, Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Nikolai Tikhonov and USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrei Gromyko at the airport.

Photo by Sergei Smirnov



UN CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Calvo A regional UN conference convened within framework of the World Campaign for Disarmament has opened here, taking part in its deliberations are delegations — non-governmental organizations from the majority of African countries. Representatives of the Soviet Union, India, the USA and several other countries have arrived to present reports.

Its agenda includes the discussion of the struggle for disarmament both on global and regional scales and for turning the African continent into a zone free of nuclear weapons. Speaking at the conference, the chairman of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly, Paul Lu-saka, pointed out the primary importance of disarmament for the preservation and consolidation of peace and security.



The United States Air Force base at Moleworth (Cambridge, Britain) prefers to be surrounded by a 11 km-long wire fence in anticipation of protests over the impending deployment there of 64 American cruise missiles in accordance with NATO plans, before 1986.

Photo AP-TASS

POLISH LEADER VISITS INDIA

New Delhi. General of the Army Wojciech Jaruzelski, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Poland, arrived here on a five-day official visit at the invitation of India's Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

HAFEZ AL-ASSAD ON USSR'S POLICY

Damascus. President Hafez al-Assad of Syria spoke highly of the Soviet Union's consistent policy in questions of the Middle East settlement and the support rendered by the USSR to the just struggle of the Arab peoples for the liberation of the territories occupied by Israel and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the peoples of the region.

He said this at a meeting with a delegation of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, headed by Boris Pastukhov, Chairman of the Central

Statement by France's Minister of Defence

Paris. France takes a negative stand on the American plans for the militarization of outer space since this will inevitably lead to unfolding the race in offensive arms on the Earth. This was declared by Charles Hernu, Minister of Defence of France, in a speech in Munich at the annual international conference of the West German military-scientific society Wehrkunde, as reported

EUROPE NAMES GRANDS



European champions in ice skating Natalya Belyukhina and Andrei Bukin.

● SCIENTISTS FROM THE BYELORUSSIAN CAPITAL MINSK AND LENINGRAD HAVE DISCOVERED A NEW POLYMER THAT WILL SERVE ITS PURPOSE AND THEN DISAPPEAR WITHOUT A TRACE. Manufacture of polythene films, which can be destroyed through the influence of light, has been started at the Novopolotsk Polymer association. The cheap polymer film not polluting the environment after being used will be advantageous to many agricultural workers, especially farmers cultivating vegetables in the open air.

● AN AVTOVAZ SERVICE STATION HAS STARTED FUNCTIONING AT THE MAAGSTRALNY SETTLEMENT (Irkutsk Region) in the western section of the Baidar-Amur Railway.

SOVIET WRITERS PROTEST

The Writers' Union of the USSR has issued a statement calling for an end to anti-constitutional persecution of members of the anti-war movement in the Federal Republic of Germany.

It is with the feeling of overwhelming indignation, the statement says in part, that the Soviet writers' journal of the judicial authorities of the FRG with respect to a prominent West German author, scholar and public figure, Walter Jens, who is "guilty" only of having taken part in a peaceful demonstration of protest against the deployment of US first-strike weapons — Pershing-2 missiles — on the territory of the FRG.

The sentence passed by the judicial authorities on Walter Jens, comes as fresh evidence of

the fact that the ruling quarters of the FRG are unwilling to heed the voice of a majority of the country's population demanding that the US missiles be removed from West German territory, the statement says.

Soviet writers strongly protest against the court ruling with respect to our colleague Walter Jens, the statement emphasizes.

Cultural programme with Spain initialed

The 1986-87 Soviet-Spanish cultural cooperation programme has been initialed in Moscow. This is yet another example of the successfully developing cultural links between the two countries, said Yuri Kirichenko, head of the USSR Foreign Ministry department for cultural relations. Exchanges in the field of cinema, TV, sports, etc., help draw our nations closer and gain better knowledge about each other's national culture. Soviet performers have on more than one occasion won the hearts of Spanish audiences while artists from Spain are accorded a warm welcome by Soviet audiences.

The new programme will make it possible to diversify cultural exchanges, and undoubtedly, benefit both countries.

Says Miguel Carriedo, director-general of the department of cultural relations of the Spanish Foreign Ministry: "I would like to pinpoint two major things. First, the consideration of diversity and intensity of exchanges and links. Second, the numerous contacts envisaged in the programme between Spanish and Soviet people. This is exactly what enlivens the formal documents." "The initialed programme is viewed not as an end in itself, but as a point of reference for evaluating our further progress."



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HOME NEWS

Round the Soviet Union

● A GENERAL SCHEME FOR RATIONAL UTILIZATION OF LAND RESOURCES COMPLETED IN ARMENIA WILL HELP PUT TO GOOD USE MORE THAN 100,000 HECTARES OF WASTE LAND. Farms on the Shirak Plateau, Zangazur Highlands and the Ararat Valley have been provided with scientifically substantiated recommendations: cartograms of cultivated stony soil. Comprehensive investigations carried out by specialists will help farmers make better use of arable lands and also increase the output of animal products.

● THE COMPUTING CENTRE OF THE SIBERIAN DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCES HAS TAKEN DELIVERY OF MINI-, MICRO- AND MULTICOMPUTERS. They have already been switched to the network of computers in collective use here. Thanks to this it has become possible to use bigger computers more efficiently. A complex has been designed and equipped in conjunction with Polish specialists.

● IN SOUTHERN UZBEKISTAN (CENTRAL ASIA) THE PAUMUK GAS FIELD CONSTRUCTION HAS BEEN COMPLETED. A plant with a capacity of 3,000 million cu m a year and meant for full-cycle preparation of gas has gone into operation. It is a major technical complex ensuring the cleaning of natural fuel from mechanical impurities (sand and gravel) and its separation from the condensate. The fuel is then channelled to gas processing works from where it goes to the gas-mains heading for the industrial centres of Uzbekistan, the neighbouring Central Asian republics and the Ural.

GAS FROM YAMBURG

The Soviet press keeps reporting about the development of a new major gas-condensate deposit in Yamburg situated beyond the Polar Circle in Western Siberia.

The new deposit is to start producing gas in the next five-year plan period (1986-1990). In the last decade of the current century Yamburg will play the main part in increasing gas output in the country.

This area is distinguished for its exceptionally severe natural conditions: permafrost, marshlands, short summer and long winter when the frost of 35-40°C lasts for a long time and some-

Nature preserves: a finger on the planet's pulse

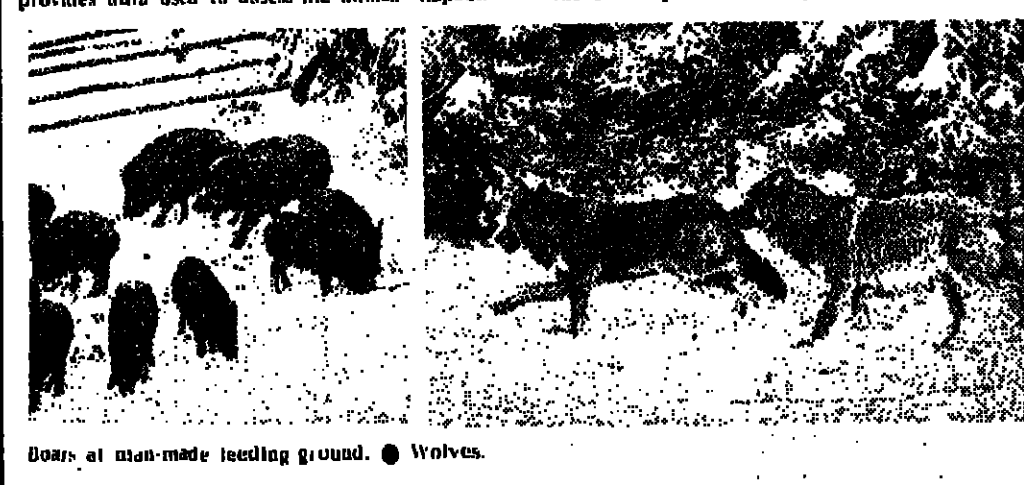
The 145 state nature preserves in the USSR occupy over 140 thousand kilometres. These pictures were taken at the Berezinsky preserve extending over 70 hectares of Polesye in Byelorussia. It has the status of a biospheric preserve.



Auroch, the patriarch of Byelorussian forests.

The idea of a biospheric preserve is in line with the global strategy for environmental protection and a UNESCO-sponsored programme, Man and the Biosphere (MAB). Each such preserve occupies a vast area divided into several zones. The nucleus, or the kernel zone, prohibits any interference in nature and its processes. The buffer zone allows limited experimentation and research. The outer zone is marked by extensive planned development. Comparison of the zones provides data used to assess the human impact.

UNESCO has already sponsored 228 biospheric preserves the world over. They represent the most characteristic ecological systems. The Soviet Union currently has only seven biospheric preserves. The Berezinsky and Prioksko-Termyny are situated in the forest belt. The Central Black-Soil preserve is in forested steppe; Repetek is in the Karakum Desert; the Caucasus, Sary-Chokel, Sikhote-Alin represent forested mountains. Twenty more such preserves are planned to be set up.



Boars at man-made feeding ground. Wolves.

Biochemistry plant in the Ukraine

The first section of the Tri-polsky biochemistry plant meant for the production of lysine has

gone into operation near Kiev. After completion the Ukraine will become a major supplier of this valuable fodder admixture in the daily diet of animals.

The operation lines of the plant can quickly be made to turn out any product of micro-biological synthesis. All the processes are automated and are backed by precision measuring equipment.

The enrichment of fodder with lysine for fattening cattle, pigs and poultry makes up for the shortage of nutritive substances in natural fodder. One tonne of lysine promotes the animals to gain a weight of 12.5 tonnes. One hundred tonnes of grain will thus be saved.

With the new demographic growth felt on the mid-sixties and we are currently experiencing the same phenomenon

MODEL OF A GULF

In Leningrad, Europe's largest computerized hydraulic model has been built and put into operation. It simulates 1,400 square kilometres of the Nova mouth and the Gulf of Finland. The model is intended for studying the system of flows in connection with a complex of facilities protecting Leningrad from floods, now under construction. STROITELNAYA GAZETA reports.

Two cycles of modelling have already been completed. The first cycle involved forecasting — the pattern of flows after the flood checking facilities have been completed. The results showed that the arrangement of structures was chosen right and that they will not interfere with the natural pattern of flows in the area.

The second cycle of modelling had a lesser scale but was likewise important: to select the best schedule for building these structures in order not to spoil the quality of water in the gulf.

It was reported that in 1984 the building teams made a service land-linking the Gorokaya settlement on the northern shore of the gulf with Kolpin Island. But before that happened, the question had to be solved as to how work should proceed. The results were obtained after extensive modelling. The third cycle of modelling, the newspaper stresses, is to solve town planning problems.

Trap for heat

A considerable economic effect will be obtained by the heat recovery installations whose production has started at Sumy (Ukraine). Utilizing the heat of exhaust fumes, they simultaneously prevent air contamination.

The new equipment is meant to operate together with powerful gas pumping units. The heat of their engines goes to warm up various projects.

One such installation meets heat requirements of a settlement with a population of many thousands.

Travelling chicken

A major poultry factory is under construction in the town of Slazan, one hundred kilometres from the capital of Azerbaijan. Forty poultry farms have already been commissioned there.

The structures and technological equipment for the poultry yards were delivered from Hungary. The first batch of chicks also came from Budapest.

Water for southern Karakum Desert

A vast pasture zone has been set up in the southern Karakum of Turkmenia in Central Asia. The construction of a major irrigation system was completed by putting into operation the last complex of the Kizil-Arva water conduit. Taking its source from an underground lake, the pipeline which stretches for many kilometres, has supplied, through distribution systems, water to nearly eight hectares of pastures used by the local sheep-breeding farms. The last section of this system was built on the territory of the Badkhyz reserve and is meant to be only for the flocks of state farms in this district but also for rare protected animals. Now the new oasis in the desert has about 200 km of conduits supplying water from underground springs to the remotest parts of the desert. Usually subterranean waters are used only for drinking and household purposes. But local scientists have calculated that subsoil water reserves are quite enough to supply with water a part of pastures.

More than 20 underground water deposits have been prospecting of late in the republic to supply vast pastures with water.

HOME NEWS

Named after Indira Gandhi

The name of the glorious daughter of the Indian people, Indira Gandhi, has been conferred on the Central Scientific Library of Tajikistan. The library's fund consists of one-and-a-half million books. It is engaged to look exchange with many scientific establishments both in the USSR and abroad. Among them are sixteen libraries in New Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay and other Indian cities.

First to congratulate the staff members of the library on the remarkable occasion was M. A. Adinov, President of Tajikistan's Academy of Sciences, who is also a winner of the Jawaharlal Nehru Prize. We are happy to learn that the solemn act of conferring Indira Gandhi's name on one of the biggest libraries in the republic coincided with the national festival of the Indian people — the 35th anniversary of the Republic.



This is the official souvenir of the 12th World Festival of Youth and Students — Kalyusha with the Peace Dove on her palm.

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE 12th WORLD FESTIVAL IN MOSCOW

Representatives of youth and student movements from 34 countries and nine international organizations of various political orientations have started drawing up the programme for the 12th World Festival of Youth and Students to be held in Moscow this summer. They made up the standing commission of the International Preparatory Committee of the festival, which is now functioning in the Soviet capital.

Late in March the commission will submit for the consideration of the Preparatory Committee a detailed project of the festival programme.

All functions of the festival will be held as a part of its five programmes: political, student, cultural, children's and sports.

Jean-Claude Kennedy (France), Secretary-General of the standing commission, pointed out at the first session that in the

Soviet capital there were all the opportunities for holding this major form of youth and students of the planet. Even a cursory glance, he said, is enough to be sure that all the participants and guests of the Moscow festival will be provided here with every opportunity for discussions, meetings, get-togethers, sport, recreation and entertainment.

The standing commission will also establish contacts with all the organizations, wishing to attend the festival, and disseminate information about preparations for this forum. Besides, it is meant to contribute to the money-raising campaign for the international solidarity fund of the 12th Festival.

Science and technology

SOLAR BATTERIES

Moscow's "Orbita" shop which specializes in consumer electronics has put on sale new sources of energy for portable radios and tape-recorders — solar batteries.

A solar battery is a good replacement for chemical sources. This is very important, as their manufacture requires considerable amounts of such metals as zinc and manganese. After working for a short time in a radio set, an electronic game or a calculator, a chemical battery is discharged together with its zinc case. In this way, tonnes of this metal find their way to the city dump.

In a city flat, a solar battery can be exposed to light near the window or on a window-sill. To a car, a solar source of energy can be attached to the windshield. Such a battery will work for a long time, using either the solar rays or, with the onset of dusk, the light of a conventional bulb.

'FURNACE' FOR DIAMONDS

The first serial plant for the synthesis of big-size substitutes for diamonds has been made at the All-Union Institute of High-Frequency Currents. Such equipment is capable of growing stones weighing up to 2 kg, which several times exceeds earlier results.

Use of such big crystals will broaden opportunities in rig drilling, laser technology and metalworking. Stones obtained in a variable magnetic field are more valuable for science and technology than natural ones. Being a little softer, they excel diamonds in thermal stability, strength and are ideally suited for high-speed grinding, high-resolution lenses can also be made from such crystals.

VIEWPOINT

Preventing occupational diseases

In the USSR 120 medical institutions deal with problems of industrial hygiene and occupational diseases. All kinds of studies in this field are coordinated by the Research Institute of Industrial Hygiene and Occupational Diseases of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences. Alexandra KURBAKOVA, deputy-director of the institute, talks to MNI about some of the problems being tackled by Soviet hygiene experts.

We are working in two directions: first, we are preparing recommendations that can ward against the onset of occupational diseases; second, we are developing methods of diagnosing and curing such diseases.

Scientists are studying the factors which can unfavourably affect health (for example, vibration, noise, chemical substances, magnetic and electromagnetic fields) to find out the levels which are safe for human organism. It must be stressed that Soviet safety standards containing the environment and working areas are the world's strictest.

Medical scientists are participating in the development of new and more effective purification facilities and traps, the production of which has sharply increased of late. For example, experts in Kharkov have initiated the reconstruction of coke-and-chemical enterprises of the Ukraine — one of the most powerful metallurgical bases of the Soviet Union. As a result of these measures the republic has practically got rid of occupational intoxication caused by the coke-and-chemical industry.

Zero-waste technologies and remote control of harmful production processes developed by Soviet specialists have considerably reduced the adverse effects of contact with many unfavourable factors.

Nervous and emotional stress has been growing of late and the influence of various electromagnetic fields continues to increase in many spheres of man's activities, especially where mechanization and automation of production processes are concerned. Scientists are thus faced with new problems.

Regular medical check-ups will play a major role in the prevention and treatment of occupational diseases in the USSR. Preventive centres are specialized medical institutions which have clinical departments and hospitals.

Soviet experts in hygiene maintain contacts with their colleagues abroad. Specialists to CMRA member-countries, work in various areas of the so-called Problem Area No. 6 — "Industrial Hygiene and Occupational Diseases". One of them is the utilization of standards for all CMRA member-countries.

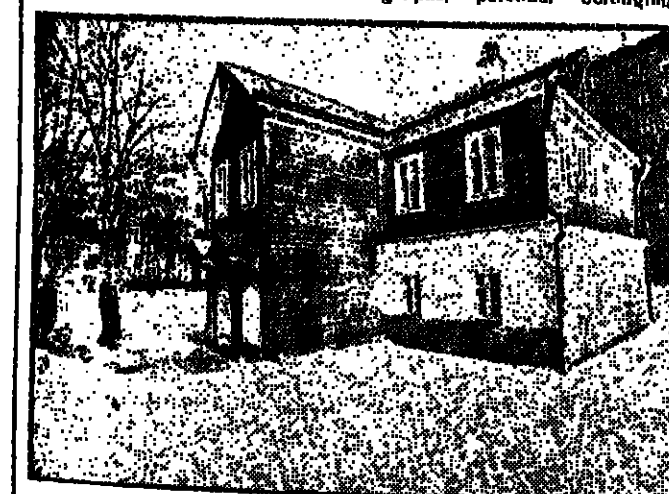
Together with Finnish scientists we conduct research into the effects of chemical substances on the human endocrine system. A monograph on this problem is now being prepared.

Soviet specialists participate in the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), which recently ran, conducted in Moscow for experts from developing countries.

Places to visit

OSTROVSKY'S HOUSE-MUSEUM

This is the house in the Zamoskvorechye District where the future author of "The Thunderstorm" and "Without Dowry" was born Alexander Ostrovsky called himself "a Muscovite through and through". It is hard to find another writer as closely linked with our city as he did. After high school he enrolled in the university, then worked in courts. A connoisseur of Moscow, the playwright became a splendid narrator of its estates and their manners and customs. It is noteworthy that during his lifetime all the plays of the writer were produced by the Mary Theatre and today also they are in the repertoire of Moscow theatres.



The Ostrovsky House-Museum.



The museum is housed in a house on Ostrovsky Street. The rooms, photographs, personal belongings and books recreate the atmosphere in which the Ostrovsky family lived. Among the relics are the issues of the magazines "Moscovsky Gorodok Listok" (1847) and "Moscovityanin" (1850) in which Ostrovsky published his first literary articles. There is a collection of sketches of costumes and sets, playbills, portraits of actors of various generations who acted in the plays of Ostrovsky.

GUEST PERFORMANCES BY UKRAINIAN FOLK ART COMPANY IN AFRICAN COUNTRIES

The Gorlitsa amateur folk art company from the city of Kamnitsa-Podolsky (Soviet Ukraine) is leaving on a long tour of African countries, which will take

the group to Angola, Nigeria, Guinea-Bissau, Benin and Sierra Leone.

The performers — students of the teacher institute — have included in their programme folk songs and dances of the Ukraine, Moldavia, Byelorussia and other Soviet republics, and also choreographic scenes and compositions to the music of contemporary

composers. Songs and dances devoted to the struggle for peace and friendship among nations feature prominently in their concert.

The amateur company won several national art competitions, were a great success during their guest performances in Greece, Bulgaria, Hungary, Portugal and other countries. They also are prize-winners of international folk festivals in Belgium and Holland.

OF INTEREST

THE CUNNING FOX

Fox is cunning. This has been known for ages. An interesting fact recently took place in the village of Bashkirta in the autonomous republic in the RSFSR.

One of the workers at the local timber-felling centre complained that someone was stealing his chickens regularly. The thief appeared from nowhere, snatched a chicken, made a lot of noise and vanished.

One day the worker rushed out of his cottage of hearing the usual noise, and again saw no one. The day was snowy and he noticed that the tracks led underneath the porch. Everything became clear: the cunning animal hid under the porch and waited patiently until the fess subsided.

A teacher training school in Minsk, the capital of Byelorussia, has many students from Afghanistan, Cuba, Syria, Laos and other countries. Not so long ago they travelled to Yerevan, the capital of Armenia for vacation. In addition to sightseeing and visits to theatres and museums, they were invited to the local industrial teacher training school. Pictured here is Sergei Galst'yan, a supervisor of the school, discussing his "know-how" with the guests.



FROM THE SOVIET PRESS

USSR POPULATION NOW 276,300,000

More than 60 years ago poet Vladimir Mayakovsky entitled one of his poems "150,000,000". This was the country's population in the twenties whereas early in the 70s we learned about the birth of the 200 millionth Soviet citizen. Not long ago the USSR Central Statistical Bureau reported that the country's population had reached 276,300,000.

Commenting on this in IZVESTIA, Igor Bashushov-Lada, department head at the Sociological Research Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences, writes that the statistical data indicate increasing birth-rate in the country. This, he believes, is the result of effective demographic policy: improved living conditions, more places in kindergartens and a number of other measures taken in fulfilment of the resolutions of the 26th CPSU Congress.

It may also be mentioned that Soviet society is now at the height of demographic tide, notes the author. This presupposes the ratio in the number of babies and young people who enter matrimony as well as those who reach the most suitable age for this. The joys of childbirth and motherhood are, naturally, connected with peace. During the Great Patriotic War many people were deprived of the opportunity to have families. After the war birth-rate went up to conformity with

because more extensive construction is expected along the railroad when the flood checking facilities will be over.

AIRCRAFT TECHNOLOGY IN RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S ECONOMY

The 1985 services to be rendered by civil aviation to the national economy of the Russian Federation discussed SOVIETSKAYA ROSSIYA by Boris Panyushin, First Deputy Minister of the USSR Civil Aviation.

The Russian Federation accounts for 82 per cent of the services rendered by civil aviation nationwide. The Ministry of Geology receives more services than any other agency. Arkhangelsk and Tyumen regions, Krasnoyarsk Territory, Yakutia and the Far East. This year alone, 100,000 visitors from the Centre to many destinations in Western Siberia will convey more than 900 thousand people — members of visiting teams.

Like in previous years Aeroflot will play special part in the development of the West Siberian oil-gas extraction complex. This region is known as a responsible for 35 per cent of all aircraft applications in the national economy. Forest and reindeer husbandry — a total of 850 million hectares — is another big job for Aeroflot in the Russian Federation. Areas populated by the Northern people are given priority treatment by the USSR Ministry of Civil Aviation.

ENTERTAINMENT

Cultural cooperation

Days of Soviet Music will familiarize Bulgarian listeners with the art of our country's leading composers and performers. The Days are envisaged under the protocol of cooperation for 1985 between the USSR Ministry of Culture and the Committee on Culture of Bulgaria.

Activities marking the 40th anniversary of the great Victory stand out prominently in joint programmes, and among them is the festival of Soviet amateur art and exhibitions to be held in Bulgaria.

In turn, the USSR will arrange exhibitions of Bulgarian drawings, paintings and crafts. Enthusiasts of dramatic art will enjoy the skill of many companies. The State Theatre of Miniatures, headed by Arkady Raikin, is preparing towards a trip to Sofia, while the ballet troupe of the Estonia Company and the Leningrad Theatre will embark on a joint performance tour. The Sofia St. Makodonsky Musical Theatre and the Teatr and Laughter Drama Theatre will perform in the USSR.

Conductor from twinned city

Bulgarian conductor Krystiu Marov was congratulated by his Leningrad colleagues after conducting the "Rigoletto" at the Nely Opera and Ballet Theatre.

The Bulgarian guest, who is also chief director of the Plovdiv People's Opera, said that he was happy to meet once more his Soviet friends who last autumn produced Andrei Petrov's opera "Peter the Great" in his country. Music lovers, he added, unanimously evaluated this talented work as a colourful event in the cultural life of Bulgaria. And though the soloists sang in Russian, the audience did not encounter any language barrier.

The Plovdiv theatre also invariably stages in Russian the operas "Eugene Onegin" and "Boris Godunov", the production of which Marov took part in. Creative contacts of musical theatres in the twinned cities of Leningrad and Plovdiv are growing. The collectives exchange production teams and soloists. Currently they are preparing to visit each other with guest performances.

Children's opera in Ukraine

The Children's Musical Theatre in Kiev marked its birthday by staging the fantastic opera "Violet and Spring" by Nikolai Lyrenko (1842-1912), founder of Ukrainian classical music. Now the country has acquired another theatre of the kind (Moscow's being the first). The company consists of young soloists who passed through severe elimination contest. The children's opera demands versatility of its actors for their art is addressed to small kids, teenagers and youth. The repertoire and the corresponding form of interpretation are chosen with due consideration for the audience's age. The small children are offered one-act operas and ballets based on fairy tales, older children—patriotic and philosophical compositions, symphonic poems and musicals.

The theatre's repertoire features both foreign classic and works by modern Western composers. They plan to stage the opera-ballet "L'Enfant et les sortilèges" by Maurice Ravel, Claude Debussy's "La Boite à joujoux" and a symphonic piece "Cinderella for Orchestra" by Benjamin Britten.

Theatre, Cinema and TV Stars

ANDRIS LIEPA

The end of last year turned happy for Andris Liepa, a young soloist with the Bolshoi Ballet company. He danced the leading parts in Boris Bartok's "The Wooden Prince" and Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker".

Ballet lovers first learned about him four years ago, at the 4th International Ballet Contest in Moscow, when 19-year-old Andris became its winner in the junior group.

Then he struck both the international jury and the participants by the accurate performance of difficult elements, high leaps, artistic expressiveness and charm. He skillfully performed — on a par with adult challengers — the most difficult pas-de-deux from classical ballets. Performing complex variations and lifts from Adam's "Corsaire" which demand high technique and strength, he looked amazingly like his father Maris Liepa, the unsurpassed classical dancer. In a number of modern choreography "Youth" to music by Mikael Tazverdizov he appeared not only as a mature dancer but also displayed acting talent, in that resembling his mother Margarita Zhigunova, an actress with the Pushkin Drama Theatre.

I first met Andris when a first-

former at the Moscow Ballet School. Then he amazed me by his attentiveness and industry. Our second meeting was a year later, at the Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theatre. That night Konische Oper from the GDR staged there the ballet "Undine" by Debussy. "Who are you with here, Andris?" I asked. "Alone. Dad's on tour and Mum's at the theatre." "Do you like the ballet?" "Yes, very." "How are things at school?" "Working hard." "Are you firm to become a ballet dancer?" "Yes, I am, like Dad. I know I need to work hard," said the 11-year-old boy. And that was the result of his studies — becoming the winner of the contest in 1981.

That same year Andris joined the Bolshoi and started with dancing pas de deux, though he already appeared in leading parts, in Herold's "Valse Froconienne", for instance. And now after four years of work at the theatre he appeared in "The Wooden Prince" and "The Nutcracker". The latter part he rehearsed for a year and learned that he was named for the ballet only ten days before the performance. "Surprise is always pleasant," says the young dancer. "It gives certain emotional impetus. For

leaps, brilliant postures and movements and rare lyricism.

This year Andris will dance the part of Prince Kurbys in the ballet "Ivan the Terrible" by Prokofiev. He is reading literature and documents about that



Andris Liepa as Prince in the ballet "The Nutcracker".

Photo by Sergei Solovov

a long time I dreamed of dancing in ballets staged by Yuri Gorkovitch and myself, was presented. Now my dream has become a reality. After the performance the chief choreographer praised my dancing. It was a great honour. My partner, the brilliant Lyudmila Semenyaka, also encouraged me."

In "The Nutcracker" Andris won the audience by his high

epoch and is all absorbed in work. He wants to approach the prince in his own way, to find some new traits for the role. He also dreams of dancing Crasus in Khachaturian's "Spartacus". Previously the part was superbly danced by his father. Andris wants to give his own interpretation of Crasus. How? We'll see later.

Margarita ANOKHINA

'Raduga' festival ends

The 6th international festival of TV folk art programmes, "Raduga", has ended in Moscow.

Mongolian TV programme "Holiday for Sanctifying the Scythe" won the first place and the Grand Prix. The second prize went to Brazilian film makers, while the third was awarded to the Soviet Central Television film: "Fête in Vito-savitsky".

The jury also commended Portuguese, Iraqi and Polish films.

Other winners and participants of the "Raduga" festival were solemnly presented with diplomas and subjects of folk crafts—Lwow pottery, Khokhma ware, Zholovoy trays, Gobi bowls and Leningrad china.

On the night of February 15 TV audiences will see a concert dedicated to the opening of the festival, to be followed later by a weekly demonstration of TV programmes about folk art. This will continue till the end of the year and winners will be determined by TV viewers.

WHAT'S ON!

February 12-15

THEATRES

Bolshoi Theatre (Sverdlov Sq.). 12 — Tchaikovsky, "The Nutcracker" (ballet). 13 — Tchaikovsky, "Swan Lake" (ballet). 14 — Verdi, "Otello" (opera). 15 — Prokofiev, "Roméo and Juliet" (ballet).

Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theatre (17 Pushkinskaya St.). 12 — The opera evening. 13 — Tchaikovsky, "The Snow Maiden" (ballet). 14 — Khrennikov, "Dorogoi" (opera). 15 — Balasanyan, "Shakuntala" (ballet).

Operetta Theatre (6 Pushkinskaya St.). 12 — Strauss, "Long Live the Waltz". 13 — Gladkov, "The Elder Son" (opera, performed by the Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theatre). 14 — Kremer, "Catherine". 15 — Kalman, "The Gypsy Princess".

FILMS

The Third Side of the Coin (Bulgaria).

A detective story about a criminal group specializing in stealing and smuggling ab-

road old coins and other Bulgarian national treasures.

Cinema: "Tempi" (5 Begovaya St.). Metro Begovaya.

Come Independent. (Only Film Studios, USSR).

About how the people of Northern Caucasus fought for Soviet power.

Cinema: "Brest" (21 Yarskaya St.). Metro Molodystnaya.

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition Hall. Nature Protection Society (5 Vorovskogo St.). An exhibition "Northern Patterns". On display are wood carvings. Daily, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Metro Arkatskaya, trolleybus 2, bus 88.

CONCERT HALLS

Olimpiyskiy Sports Complex (Metro Prospekt Mira). 15 — An optimistic story, "Born to Win a Victory", featuring Moscow's victory stars: Iosif Kobzon, Lev N. Shchukin, Estonian performer, Anna Veski and Jaki. Tickets well as the Star Nation.

State Bank of the USSR

BUSINESS

BANCO EXTERIOR DE ESPANA'S MOSCOW OFFICE IS 5

The development of international trade links and international cooperation promotes consolidation of peace and friendship between nations, said Francisco Fernandez Ordones, President of Banco Exterior de Espana who recently visited Moscow. The bank marked the 5th anniversary of its Moscow office. That State Bank of Spain now ensures with credits approximately 25 per cent of Soviet-Spanish trade which more than doubled in the past five years.

In the course of this visit to Moscow Francisco Fernandez Ordones met and had negotiations with top officials of the

USSR State Bank, the Bank for Foreign Trade and also the International Bank for Economic Cooperation and the International Investment Bank.

Discussed were prospects of further expansion of bilateral links and also economic cooperation in the light industry and the traditional spheres such as the food industry, fisheries, production technology.

50 Spanish firms used services of the bank's Moscow representation in 1984. Meetings and negotiations with representatives of Soviet foreign trade organizations were organized for them.

4,000 MILLION DOLLARS' WORTH OF SALES OVER FIVE YEARS

In Moscow, a trade protocol was signed between the USSR and Afghanistan for 1985, envisaging a considerable growth in sales.

Afghanistan Minister of Commerce Mohammad Khan Jalal, who signed the protocol for Afghanistan, had the following to say to our correspondent:

Trade with the Soviet Union is of special importance for Afghanistan. From the USSR we receive goods conducive to boosting our economy and improving the people's well-being. The USSR, as before, will continue to supply us with machines and equipment, vehicles, oil products, ferrous metals, as well as wheat, saiga and many other goods. I would like to emphasize that all these products are necessary products for us and that we are very grateful for them. Afghanistan will export to the USSR natural gas, carabamide, cotton fibres, fresh and dried fruit, etc.

The Soviet Union continues to be our biggest trade partner accounting for nearly 60 per cent of our foreign trade. 1985 is the last year of the five-year trade agreement concluded by our two countries. And with almost a year ahead

we are sure that the targets planned for the five-year period will be overfulfilled. By virtue of the present protocol our mutual sales over these years will reach a 4,000 million level. We are planning to start negotiations over a trade agreement for the next five years.

Contacts and contracts

At the USSR Foreign Ministry V/O Soyuzveshtorgimport and the Italian firm Cogoli have signed a turn-key contract for three shoe factories to be built in 1985-87 in Moscow, Kaluga and Togliatti, each with a capacity of 2 million pairs a year.

Via Soviet Nikols, Hungary will be supplied with nearly 400 Soviet excavators. At present more than 3,000 Soviet machines, including hydraulic and ditch excavators, are operating in Hungary.

Consultations on joint fisheries outside the coasts of the USSR and Japan in 1985 have ended with the signing of a protocol by the extraordinary session of the Soviet-Japanese commission.

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'Miracle on the Nile'

The Egyptian press was devoting considerable attention to the 25th anniversary (marked recently) of the commencement of work on the Aswan High Dam.

The mass media stressed that the hydroelectric complex built with Soviet assistance had greatly contributed to the economy of Egypt.

The Aswan hydroelectric scheme, wrote the weekly "Rose al-Youssef", produces nearly half of the country's total output of electric energy. During the years when the Egyptian oil deposits on the Sinai Peninsula were occupied by Israel, this scheme was the only source of energy and saved the country from energy hunger.

The Egyptian news agency MENA noted the exceptionally great efficiency of the giant power plant on the Nile. Expenditure on its construction was recuperated only after a few years.

The special importance of the Aswan hydroelectric complex is seen against the background of the disastrous drought, which has been raging in many African countries over the past six years.

Highly appreciating the work done by the builders of the project of this century, the press noted that the "miracle on the Nile" as the Aswan High Dam is called in Egypt, had been built after the United States tried to export pressure on Egypt to build the project.

FINLAND, USSR—TIES AND EXHIBITIONS

The erection of various types of dwellings and other civilian projects, energy provision and conservation of energy, and heating installations — those and other matters were discussed recently at preliminary talks between Eduard Samarsky, Vice-Chairman of the State Civil Construction Committee, and Mr. Eero Puranen, main coordinator for building contracts of the Foreign Trade Council of Finland. Also discussed was housing construction in northern conditions. New more concrete proposals on cooperation are being prepared and will be submitted for consideration of the 14th session of the Soviet-Finnish working group on construction, scheduled for the middle of 1985.

The dream machine for a modern woman

The GDR Trade Representation in Moscow has arranged an exhibition dedicated to the 30 years of sewing machine exports to the USSR. Central to the exhibition was a domestic sewing machine of the Columbia 4500 type with electronic needle positioning and rpm control. The machine, has won golden medals at different international exhibitions.

Since 1955 the Soviet Union has imported 1,200 thousand sewing machines for domestic applications produced by our factory, Wollgarn Bielefeld, Vriesse directed for sales and to an MNI correspondent.

To look always elegant and fashionable, many women prefer to sew by themselves. Our machines can do many jobs: buttonholes and bobbin winding, stretch and ornamental stitching, etc. The Columbia 4500 will suit the most demanding of sewers. It would like to call our attention the dream machine for a modern woman. It is the Columbia 4500. It is the Soviet Union. Moreover, our factory offers a long-range service and undertakes to supply spares even 35 years after we stop making the machine.